



NEW PORTLANDER

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TOWN OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone: 628-4441 • Fax: 628-4440

Town Office Contact Information and Hours of Operation:

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday..... 10am - 5pm
Thursday..... 12pm - 6pm

Town Manager/CEO: Stacie Rundlett

Email..... newportlandtownmanager@gmail.com

Deputy Town Manager: Lori Alyea

Email..... townofnewportland@gmail.com

Office hours: Same as the Town office hours

Town Clerk: Jacob Pinkham / Deputy Town Clerk: Brittany Rundlett

Email..... newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com

Office hours: By appointment

LPI: Dan Gilbert - 207-938-3866

Assessor's Agent: Audra Swanson

Wednesday..... 10am - 2pm

Email..... newportlandassessor@gmail.com

Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin

Animal Control Officer: Ryan Mulherin - 340-8137

Town Manager

The Town Office staff would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year!! We are closed on Wednesday, January 1. And on Monday, January 20 we will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day. The Budget Committee will meet on Saturday, January 18 at 9:00 am in the Community Room at the Fire Station, to review the 2025 proposed budget. All are welcome to attend.

There will be a Public Hearing on January 11 at 9:00 am in the Community Room at the Fire Station. All are welcome to attend. This will be an informative meeting regarding 3 ordinances and a proposed article to be on the 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant regarding ATV's using town roadways.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2024

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Janet White, David Veilleux, Town Manager - Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, James Reinhard, Leisa and Richard Burns, Lynn and David Cary, Brian Rundlett

1. Janet called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, David seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business - None
4. Items by the Public - There were questions regarding culverts and a discussion on how the roads have been graded. The Board will have a discussion with the Road Commissioner to see how to resolve some of the current issues.
5. Department Heads - None
6. Items by the Town Manager - a.) The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/C warrants. b.) Stacie updated the Board that she sent out 11 foreclosure notices. c.) There was a brief discussion on New Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave Program. Stacie was waiting for confirmation on what

Remember...

- **Selectmen's Meeting**
1st Tuesday & 3rd Monday of each month6:30pm
- **New Portland Fire Department Meeting**
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month6:30pm
- **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**
2nd Saturday of the month 9am
- **Planning Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of the month6:30pm
- **New Portland Water District**
2nd Wednesday of each month.....6:30pm
- **School Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of each month 6pm
- **New Portland Community Library**
Tuesday & Friday9:30am - 12pm
Wednesday 10am - 12pm & 3pm - 6pm
Thursday 3pm - 6pm
Saturday.....9am - 12pm
- **Kingfield-New Portland Transfer Station**
Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday..... 7:30am - 4:30pm
- **New Portland Post Office Customer Service Hours**
Monday - Friday7am - 9am & 2pm - 4pm
Saturday..... 7am - 10:30 am

qualifies as an employee. d.) There was a brief discussion on ARPA funding deadline 12/31/2024. Janet motioned to earmark the remaining ARPA funds, approximately 10,000 dollars, for communication purposes for the New Portland Fire Department. Raymond seconded and all were in favor.

7. Items by the Board of Selectmen - a.) The Board reviewed and signed the Somerset County ME Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2024 update. b.) The Board Review and add verbiage to Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance of 2025. c.) The Board reviewed the abatement requests: 1.) Janet motioned to grant Gabe Clark an abatement in the amount of \$2,064.24, David seconded and all were in favor. 2.) Janet motioned to grant Elavon, INC an abatement in the amount of \$1.66, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.

The Board asked Stacie to contact Kevin Roberts from the ENL ATV Club to attend the next meeting to answer some questions. The Board scheduled a Public Hearing on three ordinances and an ATV question for January 11, 2025 at 9:00 am. There was a discussion on possibly hiring a full-time Road Commissioner. No decisions were made. The Board asked Stacie to reach out to Ernie Hilton to see if he would be the moderator for the 2025 annual Town Meeting. There was a discussion regarding the annual town meeting and how to ensure that all those in attendance voting were legal to do so. Stacie would discuss the matter with the Town Clerk and get back to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the December 3 meeting. Smr

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for December 3, 2024

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Janet White, David Veilleux, Town Manager - Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, Kip Poulin, Brian Rundlett, James Reinhard, Kevin Roberts, Garrett Oswald

1. Janet called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written with a correction, David seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business - Kevin (ATV Club) There was a discussion regarding the request from the ATV Club and the town roads that they would like to utilize until they could get land owner permission for a trail system. The Board asked him to return again in January.
4. Items by the Public - None
5. Department Heads - Kip ordered eight new radios using

some of the remaining ARPA funds. He discussed with the Board a proposal for another antenna to get tones directly from Somerset on the town's frequency. There have been issues with the Solon tower and not receiving tones.

6. Items by the Town Manager - a.) The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/C warrants. b.) Stacie clarified that with the Board the New Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave Program. c.) The Board reviewed and signed the October Treasurer's Report.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen - Janet updated the other Board members about the cost of signage for speed limit signs. Raymond discussed some Public Works Department information that he had gathered from other towns similar in size to New Portland. There will be more to discuss down the road, and Raymond will also work on putting together some figures for a storage addition to the Town Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the December 16th meeting. smr

Selectmen's Notes - Happy New Year to All!

There will be a public hearing at the Town's community room, on January 11, 2025 at 9:00 am. *We urge you to attend.* Three ordinances will be discussed: First, to amend the Ordinance Establishing a Municipal Advisory Committee for the Town of New Portland, Maine approved March 1992. Second, to amend the Ordinance for Recall of Elected Municipal Officers, approved 3/5/2005. Third, a new ordinance, Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance of 2025. The first and second ordinances can be found on the Town's website. All three ordinances can be picked up at the Town Office during business hours.

We will also be asking for your input on a question which will be on the Town Warrant this year at the Town Meeting, which will be held on March 1, 2025. The question is: We the citizens of New Portland allow ATV machines on town roads.

This is a busy time of year for your town officials. We are getting ready for town meeting, which takes a lot of thought and work. We hope to see many citizens at the annual Town Meeting in March. This year we ask you to arrive a little early if possible. All registered voters will need to check in with the Town Clerk to prove they are registered voters. Upon proof you will be given a colored card. You will raise this card when voting at the meeting. We are using this form of voting so legal registered voters of our town can vote on town warrant items.

Winter is here, be safe and help your neighbor if needed.

*Submitted by the Selectmen
Janet White, Ray Poulin, Dave Veilleux*

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is January 20 by 4:00 pm.

Any articles, submissions, information for publication should be received by:

Dallas Landry • PO Box 34, North New Portland, ME 04961 • phone 628-4201 • email: alderswamp2@gmail.com

If there are any questions or needs regarding the receiving of the *New Portlander*, those inquiries should be directed to the Town Manager.

Superintendent of Schools

December 18, 2024

Dear Residents of New Portland,

As we approach the holiday break, our students are in rare form. Excitement is in the air!

As was predicted, the month of December has been active weather wise with delays and no school calls tricky. Our appreciation to the road crews for early morning snow removal and sanding to make our roads safe for transporting students. We had only one sub-committee meeting scheduled for this month but due to the predicted heavy rains that Wednesday evening that meeting was canceled.

Beginning Saturday, December 2 repairs will begin on the sewer pipe running from the bathrooms outside the cafeteria at Carrabec Community School to the main sewer line of the building which runs the length of the hallway from the gym to the front doors. The work will include cutting the cement floor, removal of the compacted materials above and around the damaged pipe, replacement of the sagged pipe, compacting of the material below the pipe and repacking of materials around and above the new pipe, and pouring of a new floor. All of which is predicted to be completed by the end of Christmas break.

When the new year arrives, the 2025-2026 budget building process will begin in earnest. New State minimum wages for non-teacher school employees will likely have a significant impact on the budget. For education technicians, the legislation will require districts to pay 125% of State of Maine minimum wage for the base pay which will result in an increase greater than 10% for some of our Ed Techs. Other support staff (custodians, cooks, maintenance, bus drivers, monitors, van drivers) will have a base pay of 115% Maine's minimum wage. Negotiations with Support Staff will happen later in the year.

Overall, the month of December has been a quiet month for your School Board. As always, I would encourage you to reach out to me or your board representatives if you have any questions or concerns.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Sincerely,

Submitted: Mark L. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools

Kingfield Seniors Group

Now that we are entering into the New Year, we are hopeful that more seniors will take advantage of the FREE fellowship we offer! Our December meeting was just wonderful! Dot Lambert played the piano and we all sang Christmas Carols.

Our next scheduled meeting is on Monday, January 6 at noon. As usual, we will meet at the Western Mountains Baptist Church located on Rte 27N right outside of Kingfield. I do want to reiterate that our group is not just for Kingfield seniors, but for all seniors! (There is no age requirement either). Please do come and check us out! Should you have any questions or want more information, please contact me at 207 628 4461. Best regards...

Submitted: Nanci Lehto Mahlmann

School Board

The December 4 board meeting was held at Garret Schenck. The food was tremendous. I sampled the brownies, chex mix, and pumpkin rolls. It is within the realm of possibility that I had more than one serving of each.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustment to the Agenda: One nomination was removed from the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes of the November board meeting were approved.

Presentation: There was no presentation.

Superintendent Report: The audit report should be ready to share with the board at the January meeting. A board member asked for clarification about one of the agenda items. Mr. Campbell stated the item dealt only with individuals who drive a van as their primary job. CCS has had some sewer issues. It is hoped that the problem will be fixed during the upcoming school vacation. A board member asked about the trend of hiring young coaches and expressed the hope that a support system was in place to help the young coaches succeed.

Appointments: Summer Lindblom - CHS jv girls' basketball, Luke Carey - CHS jv boys' basketball

Nominations: Tiffany Medwick - bus driver, Brian Shamaly - mechanic, Felicia Schobel - GS, ed tech one

Admin Reports: Most of the administrators chose not to add to their written reports. (Board member Eric Ewing commended the admin team on the quality of their written reports this month.)

Jean Butler welcomed the board to GS. She said that the candy cups at the board table had been created by Valerie Pinkham's pre-k students.

Peter Campbell said the CHS performing arts event had been moved back a week due to weather.

Committees: The Buildings and Grounds Committee met on November 13.

Public Participation: Heather McKinnon spoke about her concerns about the student cell phone policy.

Policies: After some discussion, and the removal of one paragraph, the board approved the first reading of policy GBEC - Drug Free Workplace.

The board approved the first reading of policy GCOA - Supervision and Evaluation of Professional Staff.

The board approved the second reading of policy EEAEAB - Drug and Alcohol Testing of School Van Drivers.

Curriculum: The board approved the new English Language Arts curriculum. During the discussion, a board member expressed his concern about teachers and students using AI.

Executive Session: The board entered into executive session to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation. (I believe the executive session began at around 6:40 pm.)

Following the executive session, the board voted to offer the superintendent a contract for 2025-2026.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 6:49 pm.

Submitted: Dave Ela, President of Carrabec Teachers Association

Happy NEW YEAR 2025

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

The December meeting was called to order with eight members present.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

The trail master reported that the Old County Road bridge has been put in place and ready to be used. He wants to thank all of the crew for their help. It was also reported concrete blocks have been purchased for the Tannery Bridge in the West and will be put in place when we are ready for them. 4 x 4 bumpers need to be installed on the sides of the bridge as well as signs put up. Groomer update - A local business has figured out the problem with the Bombardier, groomer should be ready to use soon. The Tucker is having the blade rebuilt. Also a leak in the radiator was discovered and options to repair are being looked into.

New Business: A discussion was held about the possibility of getting a shelter to house the groomers. One option mentioned was purchasing shipping containers. Another issue was where to put the shelter. Topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

After the meeting our annual Christmas party was held. We had fun exchanging gifts and enjoying the yummy food. Certain members of the club should not have any issues with cold hands or feet this winter. Also keep your eyes out for one of our groomer operators, he will be "stylin" in his new orange hat that has a built in headlamp.

Our next meeting will be January 11, 2025 starting at 6:30 pm, at the fire station meeting room.

Happy holidays to all!

Submitted: Joyce Knowles

New Portland Churches

December was such a busy time at our church. Over 700 cookies were baked for the children of the Free Street Church, gifts were distributed for the residents of Edgewood Nursing Home and the Nativity lay was presented by the children of our church! We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family! We have also started an outreach program for the homeless in Portland. Food and other essentials are being distributed on a regular basis. Also, on the third Thursday of the month, Cheryl Brown is hosting our new ministry called Serving our Seniors.

All of our programs are available on our website: www.westernmountainchurch.org or you may call the church directly at 207 265 2557. This is a brand new year, and we look forward to having you join us!!

Submitted by Nanci Lehto Mahlmann

We ring in the New Year with great expectations and high hopes!

We are meeting every Sunday in the warm and cozy Joyce Pease Meeting House adjoining the big church sanctuary. That beautiful but chilly space is quietly waiting for warmer weather. It is a lovely space to sit and feel the embrace of many generations of New Portland families that graced the building over the years. You can feel the history and the peace of the place.

January 1 we will be holding the first of our Wednesday luncheons on the first Sunday of the month, from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. February and March we will also meet on the first Wednesday of the month. Join us for a light lunch and lots of conversation, games, card playing or whatever the day brings to us.

Our 2024 Outreach Grant from Presbytery is finding its way to some high school students and also a portion will go to the local heating fund to help keep our neighbors warm. We will be writing with more detail about the student projects as they take shape.

If you are joining us for worship our ministers for the month of January will be January 5 – Rev. Stan Wheeler, Communion Sunday; January 12 – Rev. David Smith; January 19 – Pastor MaryEllen Royce; January 26 – Debby Bliss Bujnocki.

Please join us for coffee hour at 10:30 am with worship following at 11:00 am unless otherwise noted. Respectfully...

Submitted: Nan Berry

New Portland Community Library

Happy New Year, New Portland! Winter has arrived and goodness, it's cold outside! Stop in the library, which is always warm and welcoming. While you're here grab a cup of hot coffee or tea, and get a little R&R. Enjoy one of our latest additions, work on a puzzle, or just come in to say, "Hi."

Last month we held our annual craft fair, and I would like to send a warm thank you to everyone who contributed. Our gratitude goes to all the talented vendors who joined us, the outstanding bakers who made tasty treats, visitors, and patrons, and Michelle Abbott who provided Reiki sessions. Thank you again, New Portland! Your help made the craft fair a success.

"Marilyn (Gorman) was a pillar of the New Portland community from the first, and remained so until the very end, serving over the years in many roles including librarian at the New Portland Library." Thank you to all who have donated to the New Portland Community Library in memory and honor of Marilyn. I know she loved New Portland and wanted to preserve the history for future generations.

The NPCL has exciting news to share. We are thrilled to announce the John Henry Eldred, Jr. Foundation has awarded us the Dorothy Louise Kyler Fund. This grant was created to help grow children's circulation across rural libraries in the United States. During 2025 we plan to update the juvenile and young adult non-fiction collections, add dividers to make non-fiction navigation easier, create a summer reading program, host events that will engage children, add kid-friendly furniture, a Lego station, and much more. The New Portland Community Library would like to express sincere thanks to The John Henry Eldred, Jr. Foundation.

Right now, the library is full of newly added books for sale. We have many books from authors such as Dale Brown, Dan Brown, Clive Cussler, Jeffrey Deaver, Janet Evanovich, Sue Grafton, Sarah Graves, John Grisham, Elin Hilderbrand, J.A. Jance, Iris Johnson, Robert B. Parker, James, Patterson, J.D. Robb, Nora Roberts, and many more. All books are for sale by donation, meaning building your home library benefits you and the New Portland Community Library!

I love it when patrons turn into volunteers! That's the greatest! After the last issue of the *New Portlander* was published, Carol Short walked through the NPCL doors and asked to spearhead the organization of our Maine non-fiction section. Thank you, Carol! I would also like to thank Beth Perera and Leisa Burns. Each has helped update our juvenile fiction section. Beth is my right-hand woman! I could not do this without her! Let me not forget Diane Zavotsky. She is the leader and facilitator of our book club. I want to thank Diane for connecting people over their mutual love for books. Not all heroes wear capes! It truly takes the villages of New Portland to sustain the NPCL!

Speaking of volunteers, I am seeking a few people interested in hosting adult craft events. If you are the crafty type, let's talk!

Please remember us and consider donating to the NPCL. You may visit our Amazon Wish List and choose an item to donate. Scan the QR code at the bottom of the page or visit the link. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/OAFR1ZV2H2YJ/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1

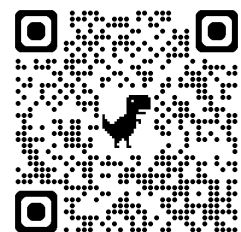
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/TVGYSOR8O9V7/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_3

You may also help the library by donating your gently used books. We have a limited budget, so if you purchase a new book we would love to take it off your hands and put it onto our shelves! Please give us a call to schedule a drop-off. Don't forget you can drop off your returnables at the Old Mill Redemption Center in Kingfield and let them know you wish to pay it forward to the NPCL.

January happenings: Every Friday from 10:00 – 11:00 am we will have story and craft time for younger children. All ages are welcome. Thursday, January 9, join us at 6:00 pm for book club. Participants will discuss their thoughts regarding, *Braided Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The group will also decide on their next book. FYI: There is no need to purchase books if you do not wish. Books are available for sharing through interlibrary lending. Feel free to bring a light refreshment to share. Friday, January 10, 17, and 24 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm join us for an Intermediate Microsoft Excel. Take your skills in Excel to the next level. We will learn about tables, charts, data analysis, sorting, formulas, and functions as well as pivot tables. Requirements for this class: A computer connected to the internet and MS Excel 2016 or later on your device and completion of Introduction to MS Excel or equivalent knowledge. https://digitalequitycenter.org/classes/class_category/intermediate-excel/?class_type=onsite

Saturday, January 11 and 25 from 9:00 to 11:30 am Michelle is offering 15 minute Reiki sessions. Michelle generously gives any donations to the library. Saturday, January 11 is our monthly board meeting. Feel free to join us at 9:00 am. Tuesday, January 14 from 9:30 - 11:30 am, Scarlett DeShong, Somerset County's Digital Navigator, will join us to provide one-on-one tech support. Feel free to bring in your device whether Apple, Android, laptop, or tablet. She will be happy to help you out.

Stay posted to our Facebook page for additional events. Have an excellent year!



Amazon Wish List



Excel

Submitted: Mindy Newman, Library Director



The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
New Portland, ME
Permit No. 1

POSTAL PATRON
NEW PORTLAND MAINE 04961

NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR		JANUARY 2025		DOUG KEHR PHOTO		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	6 Kingfield Seniors Group WMBC noon	7 NPCL 9:30 am - noon Selectmen's Meeting - 6:30 pm	8 NPCL 10:00 am - noon & 3:00 - 6:00 pm School Board Meeting 6:00 pm Water District Community Room 6:30 pm	9 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	10 NPCL 9:30 am - noon	11 Public Hearing 9:00 am Community Room NPCL Board Meeting 9:00 am NPCL 9:00 am - noon Wire Bridge Sno-Trippers Community Room 6:30 pm
12 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	13 NPCL 9:30 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	14 NPCL 10:00 am - noon & 3:00 - 6:00 pm	15 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	16 NPCL 9:30 am - noon	17 Budget Committee 9:00 am Community Room NPCL 9:00 am - noon	18 NPCL 9:00 am - noon
19 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	20 Town Office Closed - MILK Day Deadline for New Portlander 4:00 pm Selectmen's Meeting - 6:30 pm	21 NPCL 9:30 am - noon	22 NPCL 10:00 am - noon & 3:00 - 6:00 pm	23 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	24 NPCL 9:30 am - noon	25 NPCL 9:00 am - noon
26 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	27 NPCL 9:30 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	28 NPCL 10:00 am - noon & 3:00 - 6:00 pm	29 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	30 NPCL 9:30 am - noon	31 NPCL 9:30 am - noon	